Import of Maize from U.S.A.

527. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement was signed with the USA Government for the supply of 10 lakh tonnes of maize at Rs. 175/- per quintal and from July 1988 to March 1989, 3 lakh tonnes of maize was received;

(b) whether maize received from USA was given to NAFED for supplying it to the farmers at Rs. 175/- per quintal and was given to the Bharat Krishak Samaj by NAFED who, in turn, gave it to private parties for sale in the open market and that NAFED earned a profit of Rs. 500 crore; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the gross irregularities to fix responsibility; if so, what are the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c) In the context of drought in India 1987, Government of USA donated 4 lakh MTs of corm to Government of India under US State Government Agricultural Commodity Foreign Donation Agreement. The maize was provided free of cost by U.S. authorities. India was to bear freight charges and handling and distribution charges in India. Aid maize was meant for distribution in the poultry/cattle feed and human consumption sectors at subsidised prices. The distribution of aid maize was on trusted to NAFED through State Government nominated State Level Agencies. Aid maize was not allotted by NAFED to Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS).

In addition to the above, NAFED was allowed to import maize on commercial basis also to the extent of 2 lakh MTs. Out of this NAFED imported 78189 MTs of maize from Argentina during June-July, 1988 NAFED is reported to have earned a profit of approx. Rs. 1.25 crores on this deal. NAFED sold this maize on commercial basis, including quantity of 9984 MT to BKS.

Certain allegations were received to the effect that quantity of maize that NAFED had sold to BKS was diverted to open market. An inquiry was conducted at official level. The report of the Inquiry Officer shows that NAFED has not shown any under favour to BKS in the matter of either allotment or prices. The report further found that distribution of commercial maize purchased from NAFED by BKS has not conformed to the purposes stated by BKS while seeking the allocation from NAFED and that most of the maize, distributed by BKS has been diverted to traders and BKS appears to have realized substantial monetary benefit.

Since no irregularity had been committeed by NAFED no cause for any action lies against NAFED. However, the matter is being probed into further; suitable action will be taken on the basis of the enquiry report.

Increase in concessional period for shifting after allotment of another accommodation

528. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per S.R. 317-B12(2) of Compendium of the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963 "where an officer, who is in occupation of a residence is allotted another residence and he occupies the new residence, the allotment of the former residence shall be deemed to be cancelled from the date of occupation of the new residence, he may, however, retain the former residence without payment of licence fee for that day and the subsequent day for shifting";

(b) whether Government are aware that the concessional period of the date of occupation of new residence and the subsequent day for shifting is quite insufficient keeping in view of the time being

taken by DESU Authorities for installation DESU meter in new residence and disconnection of DESU meter in the former residence;

(c) if so, the reasons that the rules in respect of the concessional period have not so far been revised;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the said concessional period from two days to a fortnight at least in S.R. 317-B-12(2) of the Compendium in the near future; and

(e) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DESU has not pointed out any difficulty in installation of the meter or disconnection of meter from the Government quarters. The present concessional period allowed for shifting is not considered insufficient. However, if ganuine difficulties are pointed out by DESU for the installation of the meter, extension of time is considered on merits.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The present concessional period allowed is considered sufficient for shifting of residence. Such an arrangement has been made to avoid loss of revenue to Government.

Payment of HRA in case of failure to take possession of accommodation

529. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per S.R. 317-B-12(1) of Compendium of the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963, "an officer, who after acceptance, fails to take possession of Government accommodation within eight days from the date of receipt of the allotment letter, shall be charged licence fee from such date upto a period of 12 days"; and

(b) if so, whether the House Rent Allowance can be paid to such officers for those 12 days for which the licence fee is being charged?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This matter needs examination.

Compendium of the allotment of Government Residences Rules

530. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Urban Development; to get the uptodate Compendium of the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963 reprinted;

(b) whether the above Compendium has been published; if so, when; and if not by when it is likely to be published; and

(c) whether a copy of the Compendium would be issued to all those Offices/Ministries/Departments, whose Pool accommodation has been separated?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (UD) for a comprehensive review/rationalisation/updating of the Allotment Rules.

(b) and (c) The question of publication of a compendium of Allotment Rules and its distribution will be examined after the receipt of the report of the Committee.

Allotment of alternative quarters in lieu of the Quarters declared unsafe at Probyn Road, Timarpur

531. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Type-III quarters which have been declared as unsafe/dangerous by the CPWD authorities at